

**Amendments to the Claims**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claims 1-92 (Cancelled)

93 (Currently amended). ~~An isolated A~~ monoclonal antibody immobilized on a matrix or substrate which specifically recognizes IGIF or IL-18 to adsorb said IGIF or IL-18 and desorb it when the pH around the monoclonal antibody is changed, said IGIF or IL-18 that has an activity of inducing interferon- $\gamma$  production and shows mainly showing a single protein band with ~~the~~ an activity of inducing interferon- $\gamma$  production at a position corresponding to 19,000  $\pm$  5,000 daltons when electrophoresed in a sodium dodecylsulfate (SDS) polyacrylamide gel free of reducing agent, and having the following physiochemical properties of (1) to (4):

- (1) Molecular weight  
19,000 $\pm$ 5,000 daltons on gel filtration and sodium dodecylsulfate polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis (SDS-PAGE);
- (2) Isoelectric point (pI)  
4.8 $\pm$ 1.0 on chromatofocusing;
- (3) Biological activity

Inducing the interferon- $\gamma$  production by  
immunocompetent cells; and

(4) Amino acid sequence

Comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2,  
wherein Xaa is Met or Thr.

Claims 94-98 (Cancelled).

99(Currently amended). ~~An isolated antibody according to~~  
~~to~~ The monoclonal antibody of claim 93, ~~or 95~~ which is labeled  
with a radiolabel, an enzyme, or a fluorophore.

100(Currently amended). ~~An isolated antibody according to~~  
~~to~~ The monoclonal antibody of claim 93, ~~or 95~~ which is capable of  
inhibiting the biological activity of IGIF or IL-18.

Claims 101-103 (Cancelled).

104(Currently amended). A method for determining the  
presence of IGIF or IL-18 in a sample, comprising the steps of:

contacting a sample suspected to contain IGIF or IL-18  
with ~~an~~ a monoclonal antibody according to claim 93 ~~or 95~~ under  
conditions suitable to promote the specific binding of the  
monoclonal antibody to IGIF or IL-18 to form an immune complex;  
and

detecting any such immune complex which is so formed.

Claim 105 (Cancelled).

106(Currently amended). A method according to claim 104, wherein the monoclonal antibody is labeled with a radiolabel, an enzyme, or a fluorophore.

107(Previously presented). A method according to claim 104, further comprising the step of quantifying the amount of IGIF or IL-18 present in the sample.

108(Previously presented). A method according to claim 104, wherein the IGIF or IL-18 has the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:2, wherein Xaa is Met or Thr.

Claims 109-115 (Cancelled).

116(Currently amended). A method of inhibiting the biological activity of IGIF or IL-18, comprising the step of contacting ~~an~~ a monoclonal antibody according to claim 100~~7~~ with the IGIF or IL-18.

117(Previously presented). A method according to claim 116, wherein the IGIF or IL-18 has the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:2, wherein Xaa is Met or Thr.

Claims 118 and 119 (Cancelled).

120 (Currently amended). ~~An isolated~~ The monoclonal  
antibody ~~obtainable~~ obtained by using, as an antigen, IGIF or IL-  
18, which has been extracted and collected from the liver of a  
mouse previously challenged with *Corynebacterium parvum* and has  
the following physiochemical properties of (1) to (4):

(1) Molecular weight

19,000±5,000 daltons on gel filtration and sodium  
dodecyl sulfate polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis  
(SDS-PAGE);

(2) Isoelectric point (pI)

4.8±1.0 on chromatofocusing;

(3) Biological activity

Inducing interferon- $\gamma$  production by  
immunocompetent cells; and

(4) Amino acid sequence

Comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2,  
wherein Xaa is Met or Thr.